IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently amended) A method for obtaining assistance in a search for information, on a data processing system, the information concerning a subject area, the method comprising the steps of:

requesting an interactive expertise session, wherein the request for the interactive expertise session is received from a live help selection option located on a graphical user interface;

responsive to the request for the interactive expertise session, providing a list of expert web servers having experts registered in a given subject matter as specified by a user initiating the request, an electronic page display and a communication interface on the graphical user interface;

responsive to selecting at least one of the expert web servers by the user, determining availability of the experts registered with the selected at least one expert web server; and

presenting interactive expertise related to the subject area, wherein a first portion of the interactive expertise is presented upon the communication interface and a second portion of the interactive expertise is presented upon the electronic page display, wherein the first portion of the interactive expertise presented upon the communication interface comprises a communication between a requestor of the interactive expertise and a supplier of the interactive expertise and the second portion of the interactive expertise presented upon the electronic page display comprises at least one information page related to the subject area as determined by the supplier.

2.   (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one information page is also presented to the supplier of the interactive expertise.

3.   (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the communication between the requestor of the interactive expertise and the supplier of the interactive expertise is at least one of an electronic mail message and an instant messenger message service.

4. (Original) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the communication between the requestor of the expertise and the supplier of the expertise is at least one of textual communication and audible communication.

5. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the request for the interactive expertise is from a client machine.

6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein generation of the interactive expertise is from a server.

7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the server is an expert web server.

8. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the communication interface and the electronic page display are provided on a graphical user interface of the requester and a graphical user interface of the supplier.

9. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the second portion of the interactive expertise displayed upon the electronic page display is transmitted from a generator of the interactive expertise.

10. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
upon termination of the interactive expertise session, calculating a charge for the interactive expertise session using information provided by at least one of the experts which participated in the interactive expertise session; and
displaying the charge to the requestor of the interactive expertise session.

11. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the requestor of the interactive expertise session is charged for the expertise on a predetermined basis which includes at least one of a flat fee basis, a time basis and a commission basis.

12-14. (Cancelled)

15.   (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the at least one information page is manipulatable by both the requestor and the supplier.

16.   (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the second portion of the interactive expertise is generated using a Internet search engine.

17.   (Currently amended) A method for assisting in a search for information, on a data processing system, the method comprising the steps of:

responsive to receiving a request for an interactive expertise session, from a live help selection option located on a browser graphical user interface, concerning a subject area, selecting a first electronic page having a content from a plurality of electronic pages, wherein the content is associated with the subject area;

responsive to receiving the first electronic page, simultaneously displaying the first electronic page and a communication interface; and

transmitting interactive expertise based on the subject area as determined by an expert, wherein the interactive expertise utilizes both the first electronic page and the communication interface;

upon termination of the interactive expertise session, calculating a charge for the interactive expertise session based upon fees provided by the expert; and

displaying the charge to the requestor of the interactive expertise session.

18.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the request for the interactive expertise is from a client machine.

19.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the interactive expertise is generated from a server.

20.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 19, wherein the server is an expert web server.

21.   (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

selecting a second electronic page having a content from the plurality of electronic pages;

replacing the first electronic page with the second electronic page;

simultaneously displaying the second electronic page and the communication interface on both a client machine and an expert machine; and

transmitting the interactive expertise based on the subject area, wherein the interactive expertise utilizes both the second electronic page and the communication interface.

22.   (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 18, wherein the interactive expertise is transmitted to the client machine and is displayed on both the client machine and an expert machine.

23.   (Currently amended) A data processing system for assisting in a search for information concerning a subject area, comprising:

a bus system;

a communication unit connected to the bus system;

a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions;

an output unit connected to the bus system; and

a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions from the memory to request an interactive expertise session, and wherein the request for the interactive expertise session is received from a live help selection option located on a graphical user interface, responsive to the request for the interactive expertise session, the output unit provides an electronic page and a communication interface on the graphical user interface, and the processing unit instructs the output unit to display interactive expertise related to the subject area, wherein a first portion of the interactive expertise is displayed upon the communication interface and a second portion of the interactive expertise is displayed upon the electronic page display, wherein the first portion of the interactive expertise displayed upon the communication

interface comprises a communication between a requestor of the interactive expertise and a supplier of the interactive expertise and the second portion of the interactive expertise displayed upon the electronic page display comprises at least one information page related to the subject area as determined by the supplier, wherein upon termination of the interactive expertise session, the processing unit executes a set of instructions to calculate a charge for the interactive expertise session based upon fees provided by the supplier; and the processing unit instructs the output unit to display the charge.

24.   (Currently amended) A data processing system, comprising:

a bus system;

a communication unit connected to the bus system;

a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions;

an output unit connected to the bus system; and

a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein, responsive to receiving a request for an interactive expertise session, from a live help selection option located on a browser graphical user interface, concerning a subject area, the processing unit executes the set of instructions from the memory to provide a list of expert web servers having experts registered in a given subject matter as specified by a user initiating the request and determine availability of the experts registered with a selected expert web server, select a first electronic page having a content from a plurality of electronic pages, wherein the content is associated with the subject area, responsive to receiving the first electronic page, the processing unit instructs the output unit to simultaneously display the first electronic page and a communication interface, and the processing unit instructs the communication unit to transmit interactive expertise based on the subject area, wherein the interactive expertise utilizes both the first electronic page and the communication interface.

25.   (Previously presented) The data processing system as recited in claim 24, wherein the data processing system is an expert machine and the interactive expertise is transmitted to a client machine and is displayed on the expert machine.

26.   (Currently amended) A system for obtaining assistance in a search for information, on a data processing system, the information concerning a subject area, comprising:

　　　　requesting means for requesting an interactive expertise session, wherein the request for the interactive expertise session is received from a live help selection option located on a graphical user interface;

　　　　providing means, responsive to the request for the interactive expertise session, for providing a list of expert web servers having experts registered in a given subject matter as specified by a user initiating the request, an electronic page display and a communication interface on the graphical user interface;

　　　　determining means, responsive to selecting at least one of the expert web servers by the user, for determining availability of the experts registered with the selected at least one expert web server; and

　　　　displaying means for displaying interactive expertise related to the subject area, wherein a first portion of the interactive expertise is displayed upon the communication interface and a second portion of the interactive expertise is displayed upon the electronic page display, wherein the first portion of the interactive expertise displayed upon the communication interface comprises a communication between a requestor of the interactive expertise and a supplier of the interactive expertise and the second portion of the interactive expertise displayed upon the electronic page display comprises at least one information page related to the subject area as determined by the supplier.

27.   (Original) The system as recited in claim 26, further comprising:

　　　　calculating means, upon termination of the interactive expertise session, for calculating a charge for the interactive expertise session; and

　　　　displaying means for displaying the charge to the requestor of the interactive expertise session.

28.   (Previously presented) The system as recited in claim 26, further comprising:

matching means for matching a requested area of expertise within an area of a supplier of the expertise; and

generating means for generating the interactive expertise based on results of the matching.

29.   (Currently amended) A system for assisting in a search for information, on a data processing system, comprising:

selecting means, responsive to receiving a request for an interactive expertise session concerning a subject area, for selecting a first electronic page having a content from a plurality of electronic pages, wherein the content is associated with the subject area;

displaying means, responsive to receiving the first electronic page, for simultaneously displaying the first electronic page and a communication interface; and

transmitting means for transmitting interactive expertise based on the subject area as determined by an expert, wherein the interactive expertise utilizes both the first electronic page and the communication interface; and

calculating means for calculating, upon termination of the interactive expertise session, a charge for the interactive expertise session based upon fees provided by the expert; and

charge displaying means for displaying the charge to the requestor of the interactive expertise session.

30.   (Previously presented) The system as recited in claim 29, further comprising:

selecting means for selecting a second electronic page having a content from the plurality of electronic pages;

replacing means for replacing the first electronic page with the second electronic page;

displaying means for simultaneously displaying the second electronic page and the communication interface on both a client machine and an expert machine; and

transmitting means for transmitting the interactive expertise based on the subject area, wherein the interactive expertise utilizes both the second electronic page and the communication interface.

31.   (Previously presented) The system as recited in claim 30, wherein both the client machine and the expert machine can invoke the replacing means for replacing the first electronic page with the second electronic page, and responsive thereto, the second electronic page is displayed on both the client machine and the server machine.

32.   (Currently amended) A computer program product in a tangible computer readable medium for obtaining assistance in a search for information, on a data processing system, the information concerning a subject area, comprising:

   instructions for requesting an interactive expertise session, wherein the request for the interactive expertise session is received from a live help selection option located on a graphical user interface;

   instructions, responsive to the request for the interactive expertise session, for providing a list of expert web servers having experts registered in a given subject matter as specified by a user initiating the request, an electronic page display and a communication interface on the graphical user interface;

   instructions, responsive to selecting at least one of the expert web servers by the user, for determining availability of the experts registered with the selected at least one expert web server; and

   instructions for displaying interactive expertise related to the subject area, wherein a first portion of the interactive expertise is displayed upon the communication interface and a second portion of the interactive expertise is displayed upon the electronic page display, wherein the first portion of the interactive expertise displayed upon the communication interface comprises a communication between a requestor of the interactive expertise and a supplier of the interactive expertise and the second portion of the interactive expertise presented upon the electronic page display comprises at least one information page related to the subject area as determined by the supplier.

33.   (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 32, further comprising:

instructions, upon termination of the interactive expertise session, for calculating a charge for the interactive expertise session; and

instructions for displaying the charge to the requestor of the interactive expertise session.

34.   (Previously presented) The computer program product as recited in claim 32, further comprising:

instructions for matching a requested area of expertise within an area of a supplier of the expertise; and

instructions for generating the interactive expertise based on results of the matching.

35.   (Currently amended) A computer program product in a <u>tangible</u> computer readable medium for assisting in a search for information, on a data processing system, comprising:

instructions, responsive to receiving a request for an interactive expertise session, from a live help selection option located on a browser graphical user interface, concerning a subject area, for selecting a first electronic page having a content from a plurality of electronic pages, wherein the content is associated with the subject area;

instructions, responsive to receiving the first electronic page, for simultaneously displaying the first electronic page and a communication interface; ~~and~~

instructions for transmitting interactive expertise based on the subject area <u>as determined by an expert</u>, wherein the interactive expertise utilizes both the first electronic page and the communication interface<u>;</u>

<u>instructions for calculating, upon termination of the interactive expertise session, a charge for the interactive expertise session based upon fees provided by the expert; and</u>

<u>instructions for displaying the charge to the requestor of the interactive expertise session.</u>

36.   (Previously presented) The computer program product as recited in claim 35, further comprising:

    instructions for selecting a second electronic page having a content from the plurality of electronic pages;

    instructions for replacing the first electronic page with the second electronic page;

    instructions for simultaneously displaying the second electronic page and the communication interface on both a client machine and an expert machine; and

    instructions for transmitting the interactive expertise based on the subject area, wherein the interactive expertise utilizes both the second electronic page and the communication interface.

37.   (Previously presented) The computer program product as recited in claim 36, wherein both the client machine and the expert machine can invoke the replacing means for replacing the first electronic page with the second electronic page, and responsive thereto, the second electronic page is displayed on both the client machine and the expert machine.